

I support HB 4315.
I am against Smart Meters

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Public Comment to the Government Oversight Committee – December 2, 2014.

My name is Karen Strode. I'm a resident of Ypsilanti. I am a pharmacist and work for a public university where I help coordinate the financing of clinical cancer trials. My husband and I have a son in college.

My story starts in the summer of 2010 when we visited relatives on Harsens Island. At the family cottage I was talking with a relative in the kitchen when strange and extremely painful sensations began. Every minute or two, seemingly out of thin-air, it felt as if electric current was being injected into my neck. The sensations stopped when I moved to another location in the cottage. I didn't mention it to anyone because it was so bizarre. I could not determine the cause since I was not touching any electrical appliance.

At the time I had no knowledge of smart meters, nor was I aware of my proximity to the electric meter on the outside wall just a couple of feet from where I stood in the kitchen. Two years later, I heard about Smart meters and happened upon info on DTE's website which stated that Harsens Island was a pilot location for their new advanced meter program. So the cottage, I learned, had a smart meter at the time I experienced the shock sensations. I am convinced that these shocks I experienced came from the smart meter.

In the spring of 2012 I was diagnosed with electrohypersensitivity by Dr. Gerald Natzke, an Environmental physician. I could no longer talk on a cell phone, nor use a cordless phone without getting severe head pain. It was a huge challenge living in my home since I was reacting to practically anything electric^{with} powered: my stove, lamps, as well as wireless devices.

We replaced all wireless technology with wired systems and this provided some relief. Improving the quality of the electricity in my home with Stetzer filters also greatly helped. In October of 2012 the smart meter installation in my neighborhood greatly impacted my life, even though we did not have one installed on our home. After the install, I felt ill effects from my neighbors' meters in my home (nausea, headache, malaise) especially on the second floor, forcing me to sleep and work on the first floor of my home for 5 months until I regained strength. Today, I no longer walk in my neighborhood, and keep backyard work and gardening to a minimum to avoid exposure to the pulsed radiation.

All homes with these devices are off limits to me since I cannot stay for more than 10 minutes or so before I get terrible neck and head pain and feel as though I'm coming down with the flu.

The smart meter and DTE's opt out meter (a modified smart meter) contain a switching mode power supply which creates high voltage transients on the house electrical wiring. Neither of these are acceptable or compatible with maintaining health.

If DTE takes my analog meter which does not interfere with the quality of the electricity in any way, they will essentially take my home from me. Since I work most of my hours at home, I will most likely lose my job as well since I will have to move out of my home. Where I will move to is a huge question—as my options of moving to a different location are dwindling as meter installation in SE Michigan proceeds. I have lost my freedom to live where I desire.

I encourage you to purchase a radiofrequency meter (I have bought the Cornet Electrosmog ED 75 model which can be purchased on line). It displays the signal power density pulses in real time. You will then be able to see the chatter and spiking pulses of the meshed network of meters which goes on 24/7. First measure outside of your home, then take the meter into your home and after turning off any wireless devices, measure what is coming inside, be it from your own meter, or from your neighbor's meters. You will be shocked at what you see.

The utility companies insist that Smart Meters are safe, since they meet FCC guidelines. I choose instead to believe physician, David O. Carpenter, educated at Harvard Medical School. He is a professor and former public health school Dean with expertise in electrophysiology, and microwave radiation effects on humans.

There is no evidence, according to Dr. Carpenter, that smart meters are safe and have no adverse health affects.

He explains that the FCC guidelines apply to 30-minute public exposures; and therefore do not even infer safety at durations greater than 30 minutes, such as in permanent 24/7 involuntary exposures in the home setting. FCC radiation exposure guidelines are based on the height, weight and stature of a 6-foot tall man, not children, or adults of smaller stature. Neither do the guidelines take into account the unique susceptibility of growing children to exposures.

In closing, I refer you to a recent 96-case double blind placebo controlled study from Dr. Federica Lamech of Australia, which is highlighted by the American Academy of Environmental Medicine. This study, the first of its kind, clearly demonstrates adverse health effects in the human population from smart meter emissions. The AAEM calls for:

- Accommodation for health considerations regarding smart meters – the analog meter must be an option!
- A moratorium on smart meters and implementation of safer technology.

Michigan residents must be guaranteed the right to ~~an~~ analog metering equipment for electric, gas, and water usage.

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Wireless Smart Meter Case Studies

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Founded in 1965 as a non-profit medical association, the American Academy of Environmental Medicine (AAEM) is an international organization of physician and scientists interested in the complex relationship between the environment and health.

AAEM physicians and physicians world-wide are treating patients who report adverse, debilitating health effects following the installation of smart meters, which emit electromagnetic frequencies (EMF) and radiofrequencies (RF).

The peer reviewed, scientific literature demonstrates the correlation between EMF/RF exposure and neurological, cardiac, and pulmonary disease as well as reproductive disorders, immune dysfunction, cancer and other health conditions. The evidence is irrefutable. Despite this research, claims have been made that studies correlating smart meter emissions with adverse health effects do not exist.

The AAEM has received a case series submitted by Dr. Federica Lamech, MBBS, *Self-Reporting of Symptom Development from Exposure to Wireless Smart Meters' Radiofrequency Fields in Victoria*. AAEM supports this research. It is a well documented 92 case series that is scientifically valid. It clearly demonstrates adverse health effects in the human population from smart meter emissions.

The symptoms reported in this case series closely correlate not only with the clinical findings of environmental physicians, but also with the scientific literature. Many of the symptoms reported including fatigue, headaches, heart palpitations, dizziness and other symptoms have been shown to be triggered by electromagnetic field exposure under double blind, placebo controlled conditions. Symptoms in this case series also correlate with the Austrian Medical Association's Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Treatment of EMF Related Health Problems.

It is critically important to note that the data in this case series indicates that the "vast majority of cases" were not electromagnetically hypersensitive until after installation of smart meters. Dr. Lamech concludes that smart meters "may have unique characteristics that lower people's threshold for symptom development".

This research is the first of its kind, clearly demonstrating the correlation between smart meters and adverse health effects.

Based on the findings of this case series, AAEM calls for:

- Further research regarding smart meter health effects
- Accommodation for health considerations regarding smart meters.
- Avoidance of smart meter EMF/RF emissions based on health considerations, including the option to maintain analog meters.
- A moratorium on smart meters and implementation of safer technology
- Physicians and health care providers to consider the role of EMF and RF in the disease process, diagnosis and treatment of patients.

Passed by the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Environmental Medicine October 23, 2013

Please note: Smart Meter case series research to be released upon publication